

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

**Encouraging Employee Participation in the PulsePoint Application to Save Lives**

On August 6, 2014, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire Department) announced its participation in the PulsePoint Application (PulsePoint App), a smart phone application designed explicitly to save lives by connecting persons experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in a public place with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)-trained individuals who are within a one-quarter mile radius. To be most effective in saving as many lives as possible and improving the chances for survival for victims of SCA, it is imperative to increase the number of CPR-trained registrants in the PulsePoint App.

SCA is a leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 325,000 deaths each year (which is approximately 1,000 people a day or one person every two minutes). Eighty percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home or within private settings and survival rates nationally for SCA are less than 8 percent. Delivery of CPR is lifesaving first aid, and can sustain life until emergency responders arrive by helping to maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain.

In April 2008, the American Heart Association revised its recommendations and encouraged lay bystanders to use Hands-Only CPR as an alternative to the combined rescue breathing and chest compression method. It is believed that this change will

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significantly increase the willingness of bystanders to perform CPR, and if administered immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

The PulsePoint App will alert registered CPR-trained individuals and off-duty first responders, at the same time emergency responders are notified, that there is a cardiac arrest victim in his/her proximity in a public place. The application uses sophisticated location-based services to alert trained citizens in the immediate vicinity of the need for CPR.

The PulsePoint App, available on iPhone and Android devices, also directs these citizen rescuers to the exact location of the closest public access Automated External Defibrillator (AED). An individual is able to report and update AED locations using the PulsePoint AED Application (PulsePoint AED App). As a result, emergency responders trained in CPR and off-duty professionals, such as firefighters, police officers and nurses, will be able to locate the AED closest to them when a cardiac emergency occurs.

The PulsePoint Apps were developed by a retired fire chief of a fire department in California. Marketing and outreach activities are handled by PulsePoint, a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation whose mission is to improve communication with local public safety agencies and empower CPR-trained individuals to use their skills in aiding someone with SCA and reduce millions of annual deaths.

The Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) encourages all residents of the County to become trained with the Hands-Only CPR method and to register with PulsePoint. Downloading both the PulsePoint App and the PulsePoint AED App offer the potential of saving thousands of lives throughout the County. The PulsePoint App currently provides coverage for hundreds of cities and communities, including jurisdictions served by the County's Fire Department, Santa Clara and Orange counties, Arizona, South Dakota, Oregon, Ohio, Florida and New York, as well as Australia.

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All County departments are encouraged to participate and raise awareness among their employees to become CPR trained with the Hands-Only method, download both the PulsePoint App and PulsePoint AED App and be ready to use their skills at any time. County employees should raise awareness among their family members and friends as well.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Fire Chief, Chief Executive Officer, Director of Health Services, and Director of Internal Services Department to:

1. Report back in 30 days with a plan to train Los Angeles County (County) employees in the Hands-Only method of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), including an estimate of costs, if any. This report should also consider a methodology which would document the number of times a County employee has been notified via the PulsePoint App to respond to a person requiring CPR. This methodology could be as simple as self-reporting, and should not include any information on the persons requiring CPR;
2. Encourage County employees who are trained in CPR to download and register with the PulsePoint App;
3. Include information on the PulsePoint App and the PulsePoint AED App in all relevant presentations to the public, such as on emergency preparedness, first aid, and community emergency response teams; and
4. Conduct an inventory of all AEDs located in County owned or managed buildings, and register the location of these devices with the PulsePoint AED App.

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